

Message from the Headteacher

Another six weeks have flown by, and we are now more than halfway through the academic year! Time seems to be moving quickly, but as we approach half-term, it's a perfect moment to pause and reflect on all we've achieved together. At the core of our school's mission, 'Together, to be the best we can be,' we continue to build a community where students are supported, valued, and encouraged to grow. With St. Valentine's Day just around the corner, it's a timely reminder of the importance of our core values—Kindness, Resilience, Responsibility, Reflectiveness, and Respect. These values are visible in the daily acts of kindness that students show one another, whether through a kind word or offering support to a peer. It's through these small yet powerful gestures that we continue to foster a positive and compassionate school environment.

As we strive to live out our vision of 'Present, Achieve, and Excel,' we have made significant progress in moving Kettlethorpe High School forward on our journey towards excellence. We are incredibly proud of the strides our students, staff, and community have made, and we want to share some of these exciting developments with you. There is more to come later in the year too! Exciting times ahead! Please find further details of just a few of the exciting improvements we have made, along with relevant policies and documents, outlined below.

Mission, Vision, Values

We have refreshed the Mission, Vision and Values of our School and ensured that as we continue to review all our policies and procedures, these are central to everything we decide and do.

Mission

'Together, to be the best we can be.'

Working as a team to support each other, share our strengths, and strive for excellence in everything we do. We embrace collaboration, respect, and growth, so that we can achieve our dreams as individuals and as a community.

Vision

Present

Being fully engaged, both physically and mentally, in all aspects of teaching & learning and as a result creating a positive and focused environment for learning. We arrive on time, we are known, we are focused during lessons and actively participate in school activities to make the most of every opportunity.

Achieving

Setting personal and academic goals, then working hard and persevering to reach them.

We push ourselves to grow, overcoming challenges, and celebrating progress, whether it's through improved grades, developing new skills, or contributing to our school community.

Excelling

Going beyond the minimum expectations and consistently striving for excellence in all areas—academics, extracurriculars, and personal development. We push our limits, demonstrate pride in our work, and continually seek ways to improve and make a positive impact.

Ethos

Be Kind

Be Respectful

Be Reflective

Be Resilient

Be Responsible

Essential Information

Guided Destinations

We have reviewed our Curriculum Model, aiming for our current Year 8 students to have more choice at KS4 and that they follow a guided destination which will help motivate them to be present every day, and to enjoy, achieve and excel in their learning. In tutor time, pupils have been researching into careers and have been advised about their journey to Key Stage 4.

Parents/Carers are invited to our Guided Destinations Information Evening in March. More information on our flyer.

<https://kettlethorpehigh.co.uk/guided-destinations/>

**Kettlethorpe
HIGH SCHOOL**

Guided Destinations
Looking to the Future

Guided Destinations Information Evening
An opportunity to hear from all subject leaders and the Senior Leadership Team about your child's exciting Key Stage 4 curriculum offer.

Thursday 20 March
4:30pm-6:30pm
Repeat presentations at 4:45pm and 5:45pm
All are encouraged to attend

The journey from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4
"Together, Be the Best We Can Be"
Present
Achieving
Excelling

Target Setting

We have reviewed our target setting and tracking processes so that all students, by the end of the year, will have learning targets which are meaningful, ambitious yet achievable and support our students to excel.

Year 11 Hall of Fame

We continue to recognise positives every week with our Year 11 students by selecting approximately 15 pupils each week to be entered into the Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame is displayed around school and the students also receive a Hall of Fame postcard and pen. 61% of our Year 11 students have been entered into the Hall of Fame at least once this year. There are 29 students who have made it into the Hall of Fame more than once, 5 of whom have managed an incredible 3 entries! Keep up the hard work Year 11, you could be next in the Hall of Fame.

Culture and Behaviour Policy

We have put in place a revised 'Culture and Behaviour Policy', so everyone is clear about the high expectations we have of our students and how we are going to keep them safe. In addition, after half term we have a new Inclusion Manager, Mr Richard Carr, joining us as well as three more Year Managers to support our students to be present and to achieve and go on to excel. Thank you to all the parents and carers for backing the new behaviour policy. Your support motivates our young people to attend, achieve, and excel in every aspect of school life.

Attendance Policy

Being 'present' is the most important factor in achieving high grades. We have, therefore, refreshed and updated our attendance policy and procedures so our students are encouraged to be at school, and every lesson, every day. This has been shared with Governors and will be shared with parents/carers after the half term break.

We are encouraging all our pupils to attend every day in the next half term by running an attendance challenge! If you come to school every day you will be entered into a draw to win cinema tickets, each year group will have one winner! Runners up will win Easter treats whilst the top tutor group in each year will win a prize.

Pupils who attend school regularly make better progress both academically and socially.

New MUGA

We are very excited to inform you that work has started on our new MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) at the back of school. We are now four weeks into a 12-week scheme of works, so weather permitting we should have this new facility for students to use after the Easter holidays. We will keep our students and families informed of progress.



We were shocked and saddened to hear of the tragic incident at All Saints Catholic High School in Sheffield last week. I'm sure you will join us in sending our thoughts and heartfelt sympathy to the families and loved ones of those involved in this devastating event.

We join with our colleagues in the region's schools as we focus on supporting our children and young people during this time. We know that our students and parents/carers may have concerns, and the following is reminder of where help can be found.

- Students who are worried or need support should:
 - Talk to a member of the school pastoral team
 - Students can also email dsl@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk

- Parents or students who are concerned for their own safety or that of another student should:
 - Email dsl@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk
 - Call school on 01924 251605
 - Talk to a member of the pastoral team

Further information can be found at <https://kettlethorpehigh.co.uk/support/>

We want to reassure you that the safeguarding of our students remains our highest priority. We thank you for your understanding during this time as we focus our efforts on providing the support that our students need.

Parking around school

Polite reminder that people picking up children should not park or stop in the bus bay at the end of the school day. Thank you for your support in this.

Parent Governor Election

KHS are recruiting for the voluntary position of Parent Governor. If you are interested in being elected onto the KHS Governing Body, please email your interest to headteacher@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk – all information on our website <https://kettlethorpehigh.co.uk/parent-governor-nominations-2025/>

Advance Notice

Earlier in the year, we wrote out to tell you that the school uniform skirt was changing. This is just a reminder that the new skirts will be in stock in the KHS School Uniform Shop after May half term and any skirts bought after this time should be the KHS pleated skirt. The policy will stay the same, in so much as the skirt should be knee length. The new pleated skirts have elasticated, adjustable waistbands so that they will fit everyone and still be comfortable.

And finally.....

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support and to wish you all a lovely half term break with your family and friends.

Roisin Paul
Headteacher

Messages from West Yorkshire Police:

It's illegal to ride an e-scooter or most electric motorcycles / SurRons on pavements and roads as they don't have a number plate or signalling ability. West Yorkshire Police have the power to issue fines, penalty points or even seize vehicles. Please make sure if you use one it is only on private land. West Yorkshire Police have seen an increase in road traffic collisions involving these and don't wish for anyone else to get hurt due to their usage.

We know that for a range of reasons, some children are regularly using vapes or at risk of trying a vape for the first time, some as young as 7 years old. While vaping is currently viewed as a way for adults to cut down on cigarette smoking, buying or selling vapes to children under the age of 18 is illegal.

A lot of young people use vapes because of their popularity. It's easy for them to buy vapes online, in local shops and through friends or social media, however, many of the vapes targeted at children not only have high levels of nicotine, making them very addictive, they often contain illegal drugs or chemicals.

Some of these vapes are so strong that for some children, just taking one puff is causing them to become very unwell with some children requiring hospitalisation. This is a worrying trend, and we would like to ask for your help in raising awareness of the risks and sharing some safeguarding advice with your children;

- If they don't vape – do not start
 - If they do vape, try cutting down with the aim of trying to stop
 - You do not know what is in a vape so using one is risky behaviour
- Do not use a vape which claims to have THC, cannabis, spice or any other illegal drug content.
These can cause children to become very unwell, very quickly.
- If a child feels unwell after using a vape, tell a trusted adult immediately and seek medical advice.
If a vape makes a child feel unwell it is likely to contain an illegal product.

If you are worried about your child's use of vapes, seek the advice of a health practitioner or your GP.

Additional help for children to give up vaping can be found here [Quit Vaping | Smokefree Teen](#). West Yorkshire Police's aim is to keep children safe and reduce the risk of any further hospitalisations or serious side effects from using illegal vapes.

West Yorkshire Police is working closely with schools across West Yorkshire to safeguard young people by raising awareness of the dangers linked to these vapes. If anyone has any information around vapes, suppliers who are exploiting children, please contact the police via ringing 101, using 101 online chat function, or contacting Crimestoppers.

Recently, we have noticed an increase in pupils visiting the Emergency First Aid room for minor or non-urgent reasons, many of which could be managed without emergency first aid. While we always strive to support our pupils' health and well-being, we wish to remind parents and pupils that the Emergency First Aid room is intended for genuine emergency needs only.

Please be aware that the staff in the Emergency First Aid room are trained to provide basic first aid only and are not medically trained professionals. For more serious or ongoing health concerns, we ask parents/carers to seek advice from a healthcare professional. Additionally, please inform the school if there is an ongoing concern or a change in your child's medical needs.

Some pupils visit the Emergency First Aid room with mild headaches or ailments linked to not eating properly (such as leaving the house without breakfast) or not drinking enough water. Proper hydration and nutrition are key to helping pupils stay focused and feel well during school hours. Please remind your child to bring their own water bottle to school, drink water regularly, and refill it at break and lunch times to stay hydrated throughout the day.

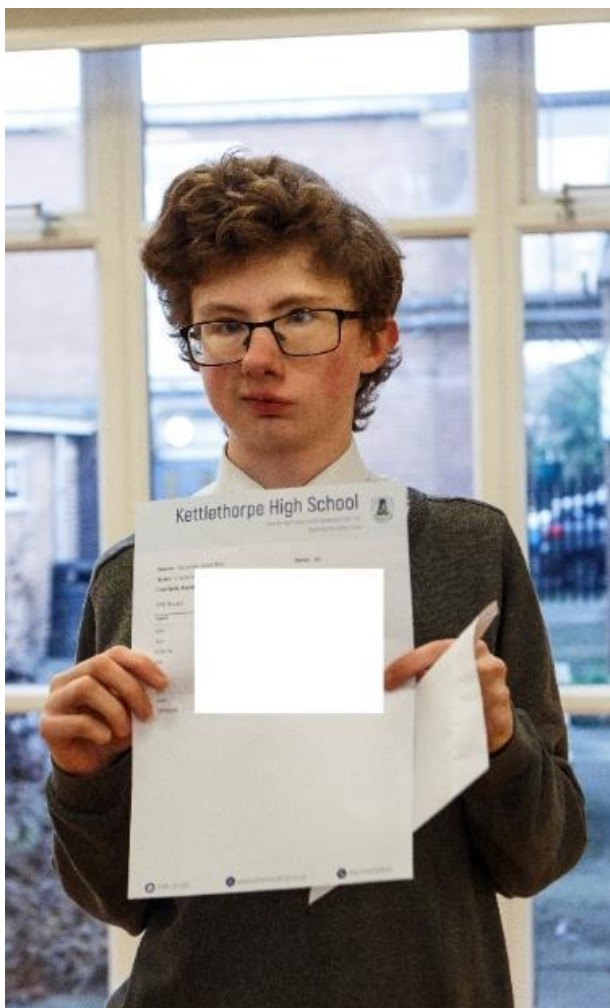
We will continue to monitor the use of the Emergency First Aid room and will inform you if we notice that your child is a regular visitor.

Diary Dates

Date	Activity
Monday 24 February	School reopens for all pupils
Thursday 27 February	Year 10 Consultation Evening
Monday 3 – Friday 7 March	Year 11 PPEs
Friday 14 March	Year 10 Wakefield College Taster Day
Thursday 20 March	Year 8 Guided Destinations Information Evening
Wednesday 2 April	Year 10 NEW College Taster Day
Friday 4 April	School Closes for Easter

Important Events at Kettlethorpe High School

Staff from WDH, Robertsons, Balfour Beatty, Leeds City College, Wakefield College, Shaw Trust and DWP showed amazing enthusiasm and dedication to the role of interviewer as part of our Year 10 PHSE 'World of Work Programme'. We very much appreciated the professionalism and high standards demonstrated by all volunteers to create a business-like and realistic encounter for our Year 10 pupil in an interview. Attending our mock interview sessions has given Year 10 pupils a massive injection of aspiration and ambition raising and has assisted each pupil in their own career journey.



We held our Year 11 PPE Results Event on Friday 17 January. Parents/Carers were sent a copy with their most recent progress report.

Educational Visits



The geography department took 90 pupils to Castleton over three days. The pupils were amazing and enjoyed a 5 mile walk up Mam Tor and a visit to Peak Cavern.



On Thursday 23rd January our Year 9 GCSE Dancers took part in a workshop delivered by a dance artist from Northern School of Contemporary Dance. They took part in a practical workshop which focused on developing their performance and choreographic skills. Some of our students were invited to attend an audition for the Centre of Advanced Training Scheme (CAT Scheme). The students were excellent and showed dedication throughout the 2-hour workshop!

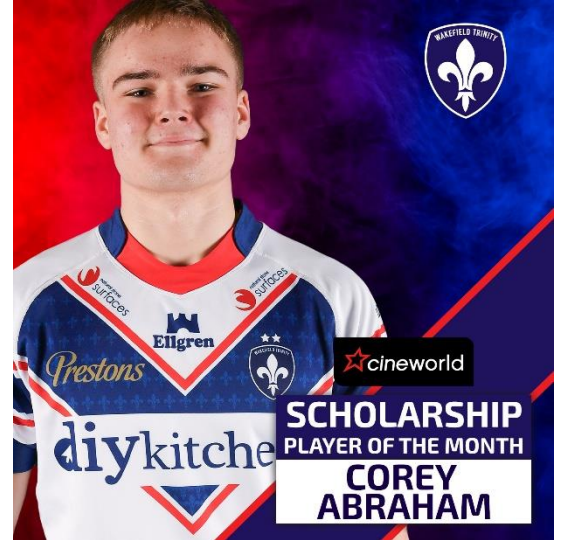
Year 11 students interested in Oxbridge had the opportunity to visit New College Pontefract. They attended insightful talks from college representatives, all of whom were New College alumni. Notably, one of the speakers was a former student of Kettlethorpe High School. It was a fantastic experience for the pupils involved.



Pupil Successes

Elsie in Year 7 has been selected to go to Serbia to represent England in the Youth MMA European Championships, with the prospect of representing England once again in August in Abu Dhabi for the World Youth MMA Championships. We as a school are very proud of her and her achievements so far. Well done, Elsie!

We are very proud of our pupil Corey for achieving the Wakefield Trinity Scholarship Player of the Month for January.



Mailey in Year 8 competed at the Pat Wade Classic 2025 acrobatic competition last weekend and came home with a gold medal! So now, she has been selected to compete in the Flanders international Acro cup in Belgium next month. Great work, Mailey!

Jess from Year 7, and her partner won Gold at Leeds Acro Open 2025 in her Grade 4 women's pair. Well done, Jess a fantastic achievement!

Our Y7 boys football team played a fixture against Outwood Academy City Fields. It was a really close game played in brilliant spirit by both teams, fortunately our boys scored a couple of late goals to sneak the win. Well done to all involved!



This week in assemblies we have been praising pupils for their hard work and dedication to all elements of school life. Rewards in assembly were given out representing the 4Rs, outstanding attendance and for reflecting the values of our kindness charter. All our pupils have worked so hard over the last 6 weeks. Well done.

Two of our Year 8 girls played in the district netball tournament at the weekend. Well done Daisy and Isobel!

First Year 7 Netball game of the season against Woodkirk with an 11-7 win - POM - Keeva B. Well done girls!

